

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 MMS-03 EB-11 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01

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R 141130Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 531

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CE, MARR, IO

SUBJ: CEYLONSE REACTION TO ANNOUNC*MENT OF DIEGO GARCIA
EXPANSION PLANS

REF: COLOMBO 429

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY MINISTRY
OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON FEB 13, WHICH
WAS SUMMARIZED IN REFTEL.

2. "THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ON THE 8TH OF FEB ADDRESSED
PERSONAL MESSAGES OF PROTEST TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND TO PRIME
MINISTER HEATH REGARDING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED TO EXPAND FACILITIES IN THE
ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

THE PRIME MINISTER IN HER MESSAGE HAS EXPRESSED REGRET
AT THIS DECISION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH
A PEACE ZONE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A MEANS OF ENSURING
PEACE AND SECURITY IN THAT REGION. SHE HAS STATED THAT IT
IS A RETROGRADE STEP IN CURRENT EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT
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THIS PROPOSAL AND A SETBACK TO INITIATIVES TOWARDS A

RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION.

THE MESSAGE REFERS TO THE WIDE SUPPORT WHICH THE PROPOSAL FOR A PEACE ZONE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HAS COMMANDED IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND INCREASING ENDORSEMENT OF IT AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR THIS DECISION WAS UNFORTUNATE AND REGRETTABLE.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT APART FROM BEING A SETBACK TO THE PROPOSED PEACE ZONE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, WOULD LEAD TO A GENERAL ESCALATION IN THIS REGION WITH HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES TO THE REGIONAL STATES AND WORLD PEACE IN GENERAL.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS APPEALED TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND PRIME MINISTER HEATH TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION."
VAN HOLLEN

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